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(about 20 kilograms) for each 20 pails of wheat harvested by their machines, and the state grain delivery quota was calculated on the remaining 19 pails. In 1952, MTS are deducting one pail of wheat for each 15 pails. This applies also to other agricultural products.

Under these circumstances it is easy to see why peasants, even on the cooperative farms, try to do without the services of the MTS which are imposed on them and prefer to do their work with the primitive means at their disposal.

The peasants also believe that as the number of machines increases, manpower in the villages will become unnecessary and will be recruited for industry. The Bulgarian peasant, who is attached to the earth, wishes to avoid this above all else.

In addition, the price of wheat, which in 1951 was 26 old leva [quantity not stated], has dropped in 1952 to 17 old leva, the price now paid to those who produce it. This appreciable drop in the purchase price certainly was not aimed at lowering the price of bread for the population. On the contrary, in May 1952 the price was raised considerably.

Peasant discontent, which was natural after these new impositions, was apparent in many regions, but especially in the districts around Ruse and Vidin, where unrest took a more serious form than in other parts of the country. Here the peasants protested and refused categorically to accept MTS services.

Many criticisms on this subject appeared in the press, which demanded severe measures to force complete obedience to orders.

These new measures, which reduced still further the income of private and cooperative farmers, only aimed at preventing them from accumulating reserves which would make them independent. Thus each person must live from day to day and constantly has financial difficulties.

This policy is more difficult to apply in the villages than in the cities, where the people are all wage earners dependent on their jobs, while the villagers have at their disposal all essential foods. This is just where the regime wishes to strike a decisive blow. Since the peasantry forms three fourths of the population, restrictive economic measures surely will be extended to rural areas so that peasants also will become wage earners at a fixed salary.

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- 2 -

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